



# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

JANUARY  
Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 1

## PASTORAL DEVOTION FOR JANUARY

### Faithful and True

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*Read: Revelation 19:11-16*

If you were asked to describe Jesus how would you? What physical attributes could you mention? John takes up the task in the nineteenth chapter of Revelation. I would imagine, however, that our descriptions of Jesus would likely fall seriously short of John's. Who among us could capture the true essence of Christ better than John?

Christians are one week removed from celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord. This celebration lends itself to peaceful images of shepherds, angels and a baby lying in a manger. Yet, the power and purpose of this child is captured in John's vision of the one sitting atop of a white horse whose name is Faithful and True. He commands armies of angels. From his mouth comes a sharp sword which cuts down evil and rules the nations with a rod of iron. His name? The Word of the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus, God's Word made flesh remains faithful and true. Christ is the same yesterday, today and always. He is Lord and Savior. He came to save we who are neither faithful nor true. His mercy is revealed through the truth of his Word and his grace is sufficient in all circumstances. Turn to the Lord. Call upon his name and receive the free gift of salvation through the one who is King of kings, Lord of lords.

*Prayer: Most holy God, keep us in faith, that we would be ever thankful for your mercy and grace. Amen.*

## WE CARE

Please continue to bring your donations of non-perishable items for We Care. You may bring your donations to worship with you on Sunday morning, or drop them off at the church office Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. When the list changes, it will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Monthly Birthdays
- Memorials and Acknowledgements
- Weekly Bible Study on Zoom
- Read the Bible in One Year
- Altar Flowers
- 2020 Year End Financial
- 2020 Year End Annual Reports
- Members Shut-In or in Facilities
- We Care Listing

## BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

02 – Carroll T. Lindler	21 – Sherrie McTeer
03 – Jackson Wallace	21 – Anna Layton
04 – Jack Howard Ballentine	25 – David McClain
08 – Frances Bowers	27 – Letha Sites
09 – Wendy Rauch	27 – Henry Clark
09 – Brilynn Floyd	27 – Kim Meetze
12 – Todd Ballentine	27 – Bryson Metze
13 – Allen Lindler	28 – Brantley Bise
13 – Brian Dietrich	30 – Joshua Monts
13 – Brandon Slice	31 – Nate Nickel
13 – Samantha Dietrich	
15 – Mimi Foster	
15 – Kenzie Foster	
16 – Tori Lambeth	
17 – Lorene Cannon	
17 – David Nuottila	
18 – David Ellisor	
18 – Gage Shealy	



## YOUTH DIRECTOR & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Last month, I was reading a blog and it sparked an idea within me. It really hit home as I was trying to think of a schedule and plan for the next year. With so much uncertainty, it almost seemed impossible to put anything on the calendar but after praying about it, something popped into my mind and I wanted to share that with you. It is the idea that smaller groups of people meeting together for fellowship and Bible study isn't a new concept in churches. In fact, we see in Acts chapter two that the first-century church relied on it "every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house (Acts 2:46). Most churches today allow people to be a part of some version of a small group. Here at St. Jacob's we have many options: discipleship groups, Sunday school, Wednesday morning Bible study, Lutheran men/women, Up + Going, KFC, etc. No matter what the group is called, the goal has primarily stayed the same from the early church: to disciple fellow believers to be more like Christ through Biblical community and the study of God's Word. We're now at a turning point in history where one major shift must happen for churches to be able to thrive in the "new normal." As you know, churches can no longer offer large events or even in our case, one

worship service due to capacity restrictions. Even as restrictions lift, we may never be the same as we once were- packing into the pews on a Sunday morning. One good thing to come of this is the fascinating idea that the church can be brought back to what she was designed to be. We can use this circumstance as an opportunity to disciple and equip people for ministry- more than ever before. I have a passion for small group ministry- not only is it what I am used to but I really do believe that it is the history- and the future- of the Church! I believe that God has each of us in an auxiliary or on a ministry team for a reason and I feel like this is the time to utilize that group. This is the time to really press into that small group and invest your time, service, and heart. I promise it will not return void. I want to encourage you that as these small groups begin to meet again, if you're comfortable, please attend. I believe that there is so much that can come of this "down time" whether it be joining Bible study for the first time (and maybe reading a book you've never gone through before), finally joining that ministry team that you feel God has gifted you to serve on, or finding a need and helping to meet it alongside a few others. There are so many ways to utilize this time and we can do so remembering the fact that, God wastes nothing.

Grace + Peace, + a Happy New Year!

Rachel

## COME & JOIN

You're invited to come and be a part of Sunday School (ages 13 and below) as we venture through John + the book of Revelation beginning in January! We will be learning a different "I AM" statement each week talking about the names + attributes of Jesus and what He meant by each symbol! You're not going to want to miss this! If you haven't been back to Sunday School yet- now is a great time to do so- starting the new year and starting a new series. There are exciting things planned and all we need is your participation! We meet downstairs starting at 9:40. We'll see you there!

## From the Pastor's Heart *by Pastor David Nuottila*

I seldom make New Year resolutions, but this year I believe I will be making an exception. As we begin our fourth year together and look forward to continuing our ministry of the Gospel, I'm personally looking forward to working with our ministry team leaders and their respective teams. I believe we have reached a point in our time together where God is calling us to a wider vision and to a greater purpose as a congregation and church family.

For starters, it will be interesting to find where God is leading us in our worship and music program. The COVID pandemic will not last forever and soon it will be time to reassemble our choirs. We might ask, "Where do we encounter the risen Christ and how do we make his presence known through the music of St. Jacob's?" "Where is God in our Children's and Adult choir rehearsals and anthems?" How will we glorify God through hand bell choirs, guitars and other instruments?" These are good questions, and our Worship and Music ministry team will play an important role in listening for God's answers.

And what of our Outreach Ministry team? There are important questions surrounding our love and care for our neighbors in their physical and spiritual needs. It is time to discern the ways in which we might make Christ known in the lives of others. Are we following Jesus as he leads us into the world? How is it that each one of our church family members is actively participating in the ministry of St. Jacob's? Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, giving aid to the poor and welcoming the stranger are all everyday tasks within the Christian vocation. It is what Jesus means when he says "take up your cross and follow me."

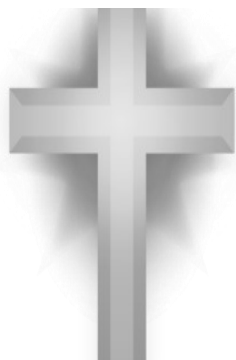
What is the goal of our Christian education program? God calls us to go into the world making disciples, teaching all that he has commanded. Is

this the Great Commission we understand when we gather to make plans for the next Vacation Bible School or Sunday school curriculum? Or are we simply satisfied to maintain the status quo and do things we have always done them? Where is God when we offer Bible studies or workshops? Is he calling you to greater participation? God calls us all to grow in faith through hearing His Word. Perhaps some might consider (and I hope you will) becoming a teacher of the faith or a disciple in training.

Then we have our youth program. Where is God as we raise our youngest members in faith? Certainly, God calls each one of us to be mentors for our children, and we promise we will do these things as we baptize. We are all called to be teachers of the faith, mentors helping them grow and supporters of their mission and efforts as they find their purpose in God's kingdom. Where is God as we help our children grow as disciples?

Finally, how do we acknowledge God's presence as we do the work of leadership within our congregation? When we make decisions that involve our time, talent, and treasure, are we making them with God's purposes in mind? Or are we simply trying to figure out the best way of doing things as simply as possible without causing too much disturbance while keeping a close eye on the budget? As we perform maintenance and repair, make plans for future upgrades or simply preserve that which we already have, we are to accomplish our work while understanding every corner, nook and cranny of St. Jacob's is the temple of God set aside for worship and prayer. How do we use every inch of what we have, on both sides of the street, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen? Truly I tell you, it makes a difference.

Asking "Where is God in all this?" brings all of us to the point of realizing that nothing we



have actually belongs to us. God is the Creator and Owner. Our gracious God blesses his people with everything imaginable to accomplish the task he sets before us. Asking “Where is God in all this focuses people on the very point that our mission is to do God’s mission.

It is the beginning of a new year, the onset of another chapter in the life of our congregation. More than this, it is time to begin preparing St. Jacob’s for a greater purpose and presence in the life of Christ’s church on earth. I’m looking forward to seeing these days unfold. I’m excited at the possibilities we have before us. Where is God in all this? He is right here in our midst. God is the one equipping and empowering us with gifts beyond measure, that we might show others the wonders of his love in Christ Jesus. Happy New Year everyone, and may God continue to bless us as his servants of the gospel.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

### COUNCIL BRIEFS - NOVEMBER

St. Jacob’s Church Council met for its regular meeting on December 8, 2020.

Good Things @ St. Jacob’s for November:

- Service music has been great; Sarah is wonderful
- TV installed in Fellowship Hall for overflow capacity
- 258 lbs of food donated to We Care for Thanksgiving
- Sunday School has been a pleasure to have again

Important Notes and Dates:

- Congregation voted to approve Parking Lot/Portico Addition as presented, details to follow. Construction is slated to begin late January to early February 2021, permits and weather permitting.
- Children’s Program has been cancelled due to Virus
- Christmas Caroling has been cancelled due to Virus
- Dec. 21 – Blue Christmas Live Stream, no in person service; online only

- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve worship (2 services); sign up sheets in Narthex, only 50 people allowed per service
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Morning Worship
- Dec. 27 – Council installation
- Jan 8-9; proposed Council Retreat
- Please check Facebook page and/or Website for updates to church activities and functions

Next regularly scheduled Council meeting is proposed for 8-9 January 2021; verification to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. (A.J.) Peeples, Secretary  
St. Jacob’s Church Council

### MEET THE TEAM!



This month is our wonderful Council President, Sherrie McTeer! She has served this year with passion + faithfulness and we have been so lucky to be led by her. Although it has been a year unlike any other, under her leadership (along with the Church Council) many great things have been accomplished!

1. What is your favorite bible verse & why? *Jeremiah 29:11* – “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This verse has always been comforting and reassuring. God has a plan for each of us – a purpose. Those plans are to give us hope and a future. Knowing that God has a plan for me and that he is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is only

a hello away. As a child of God, I know there is love, hope, a plan and a future. And if God is for us who can be against us.

2. What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? To be you! Take every opportunity to help others.

3. If you could travel anywhere, where would you want to go? It's a tie - Alaska and return visit to Hawaii

4. What movie can you watch over and over again and not get tired of? Disney's Beauty and the Beast

5. What is your favorite thing about St. Jacob's? Our church family.

## MEMORIALS

### St. Jacob's Youth

- In memory of Kelly Lindler Watts—By: Chad, Caroline, Anna Claire and Elizabeth Lindler

### Cemetery

- In memory of Jeffery Lindler—By: J.L. and Janet Lindler

### Lutheran Men

- In honor of Danny Shealy and The Lutheran Men—By: W. B. Tillery

### Up & Going

- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henson Roof—By: Leon and Helen Lindler

### Building Fund

- In memory of Rayon, Annie, and Carl Lindler  
By: Albert and Elvia Lindler

## DAILY DEVOTIONS by Pastor David

It has been my pleasure to share daily devotions with the congregation and our friends on Facebook the past nine months. This has been an unexpected blessing for me in our current condition of the COVID-19 pandemic. So much so that it has become an enjoyable part of my daily routine. As we flip the page to 2021, I plan to continue this time of devotions and prayer throughout the year. I pray that more of our church family members will make

these devotions a part of their morning routine. Please, feel free to share these devotions with your friends and family on Facebook as you are able.

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Plans are being made to resume our weekly Bible study on Zoom.com. There are also a few ideas concerning an evening Bible study to be held either online or in person. Of course, the in-person Bible study will include a few social distancing requirements, but it will be a way forward as we continue to resume on site church activities. Please keep an eye on the weekly worship bulletin announcements as well as the mid-month Grace Notes for further information.

## CONTINUING COVID RESPONSE

In our continuing effort to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, St. Jacob's will continue our current protocols for social distancing and protection. Please remember these simple steps.

- Entrance to the church on Sunday morning is through the Fellowship Hall doors. This is to prevent groups from gathering in the narthex as others come in to find their seat.
- Use hand sanitizer as you enter the church nave. Sanitizer is provided on the table at the narthex doors.
- Although masks are not required to enter the building, they are required when the congregations sing liturgy or hymns. It is also a best practice to wear your mask while sitting in the pews. For this reason, everyone is to have a mask in their possession.
- Please remember to fill out a record of worship card and place it in the tray on the table at the narthex doors.
- Upon conclusion of the worship service, everyone is to depart the building. The aisle and hallways are to be kept clear. Conversations may be held outside.

These protocols are in place to ensure the health and well-being of our church family and visitors. The Pastor and Church Council will revise them as necessary to ensure the safety of everyone in attendance.

## READING THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

With the new year comes the opportunity to renew your commitment to reading the Holy Scriptures eve-

ry day. The simplest way to accomplish this is to commit to reading the Bible from cover to cover in one year. It only takes fifteen minutes or so each day. Before you know it, you are well on your way to meeting your goal. Even if you get a late start, you can read just a little extra and it won't take long before you're caught up.

Several of our church family members have taken up the challenge and succeeded. Other have begun but have not quite made it. No matter. Just keep reading. God takes delight in those who grow in their faith through reading His Word. Reading plans are in the narthex. Pick one up today.

## ST. JACOB'S ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP

Don't forget to sign up for Altar Flowers this year. The chart is hanging in the Narthex. NOTE: During Advent/Christmas Seasons only one vase of flowers is needed. Also, artificial flowers are never to be used in the altar vases and pot plants are to be used to enhance services on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday and Christmas Services - not as altar flowers.

## EPIPHANY

Not too long ago, Congregations would set aside time each January 6<sup>th</sup> to worship and observe the Epiphany of Our Lord. These days, the tradition of an Epiphany service is not one that is too widely kept. Rather than celebrate the occasion when the Magi from the East (three wise men) came to visit the child Jesus, congregations and other Christian groups conveniently include these "three kings" in the narrative of Jesus's birth. (We are just as guilty). As a result, the story of the Magi is largely misunderstood. Younger generations are not learning the significance of the Epiphany and older generations are not taking the time to share it. This is a sad reminder of how the world has encroached upon the Church.

It isn't often that the day of Epiphany actually coincides with a congregation's regular worship schedule. With people having such busy schedules, adding a service outside the regular worship schedule seldom happens. And so, it is not often when we

hear the gospel text of the Magi visiting the child Jesus read and preached in its proper context.

This year, the Epiphany of Our Lord does fall on a day when we have a regularly scheduled worship. Rather than being wedged into a children's Christmas pageant or other similar Christmas celebration, the narrative of the Magi will be read in context. You are invited to worship in person on the day of the Epiphany. If you have not attended worship on a Wednesday evening, this would be a good opportunity. Plan to join your church family on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00p.m. for worship celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord.

## 20+C+M+B+21

Upon the feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>), many Christians (including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and Roman Catholics) chalk their doors with the pattern you see above. The numbers refer to the calendar year (2021), and the crosses stand for Christ. The letters have a two-fold significance. C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar). They also are an abbreviation of the Latin  *blessing Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this house."

In many places, the chalk used to write the Epiphany pattern is blessed by a Pastor or Priest. It is then used to write the pattern above the doors of Christian households. This Christian custom of chalking the door has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death at the Passover in Egypt. In keeping this Epiphany tradition, Christians ask God's blessing and protection for their family and home until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated. Families also perform this act because it represents the hospitality extended by Mary and Joseph to the Magi (and all Gentiles); it thus serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.

During our Epiphany service of worship on January 6<sup>th</sup>, I will take time to bless the chalk and offer it for families to observe this Epiphany tradition. During the month of January, I will also be happy to come bless your house in this traditional way. Just let me know and I will schedule a day and time. May God bless us all and bless our homes with is peace and presence.

## A Look at 2020 by Sherrie McTeer

2020 has been a year that none of us could have imagined or planned for. However, new doors and opportunities have opened and presented itself to us during this year of unknowns and wait-and-sees. I want to thank the congregation for their continued financial support, attendance in-person, streaming and in thoughts and prayers, and your support of our Church Council. It has been an honor to serve as Council President this year. You, the congregation, blessed Chris Doyle (Vice President), Pastor and me with an action oriented make-it-happen Council. I cannot say enough about the work of our 2020 Council. I would like to share with you some of our accomplishments and action items. The full 2020

Council report will be included with our annual reports.

- Worked on the following four goals:
  - ◊ Strengthen and Grow Sunday School by Revitalizing, Promoting and Recruiting (Christian Education, Teachers, Quality, Faithful, and Attendance)
  - ◊ Strengthen and Grow our Youth (Pre-K thru College) (includes "OWL" Program)
  - ◊ Community Service Opportunities
  - ◊ Spiritual Growth in Stewardship Opportunities (includes On-Line Giving, Investment and Financial Opportunities)
  - ◊ Revised our Ministry Team Structure and Responsibilities
  - ◊ Reviewed and updated our church constitution (approved at December 6 congregation meeting)
  - ◊ Installed new audio visual equipment in Sanctuary and TV in the fellowship hall for streaming services and mesh Wi-Fi network
  - ◊ Contracted with Incite Technologies for all network and technology needs
  - ◊ Moved church funds with the exception of our general fund checking account from BB&T to Thrivent
  - ◊ Moved Sites Endowment from Wells Fargo to Thrivent
  - ◊ Opened our doors to the Courage Center for weekly meeting
  - ◊ Accepted, approved and presented our Parking Lot and Portico project (approved at December 6 congregation meeting)

Again, thank you! These accomplishment would not have happened without the full support of the congregation.

We ARE St. Jacobs Lutheran Church, SJLC, Serving Jesus Loving Community!

Happy New Year!

Sherrie

## 2020 YEAR END CLOSING

Financial Year End information is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have any paperwork (reimbursement requests, receipts to back cash advances, and any leftover cash, etc.) for 2020, please turn your information into Walt Shealy so he can close out the year. If you have any questions, please see Walt.

## ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

Please be sure and forward your 2021 schedules and 2020 reports to Sherry in the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup> so your information can be provided in the report booklet. Auxiliaries that have checking accounts, please send that information to me as soon as you receive your statements.

Thank you in advance.

## MEMBERS SHUT-IN OR IN FACILITIES

- Michael Lindler  
250 Leaning Pines Trail  
Lexington, SC 29072  
Ph: 803-356-4100
- Dewey Clark  
159 Chapin Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
Ph: 803-345-3365
- Letha Sites  
1024 Freshly Mill Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
Ph: 803-345-2300
- Minnie Lee Shealy  
700 Haltiwanger Rd  
Chapin, SC 29036  
Ph: 803-345-2776

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2020

Weekly Giving: \$ 6,055

Budget Requirements: \$ 5,634

MTD Actual Giving: \$16,011.74

MTD Budget Requirements: \$ 16,902

YTD Actual Giving: \$267,639.13

YTD Budget Requirements: \$ 287,334

## NOVEMBER GIVING FROM WALT SHEALY

November 2020 Giving: \$22,522.74

Month To Date Budget Requirements: \$28,170

Year To Date Giving: \$251,627.39

Year To Date Budget Requirements: \$270,432

## SERVING ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Date	Time	Usher	Lay Reader	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
3-Jan	8:30	Carroll Lindler	Rachel Shelton	Susan Shealy	***
	10:30	Chris Doyle	Angela Nuottila	Don Dease	Isabelle Peeples
10-Jan	8:30	Lynn Shealy	Phyllis Bickley	Sherrie McTeer	***
	10:30	Tracy Eargle	Helen L. Lindler	Judy Dease	Cora Wallace
17-Jan	8:30	Billy McTeer	Carroll Lindler	Rachel Shelton	***
	10:30	A.J. Peeples	Helen L. Lindler	Nicki Peeples	Jack Wallace
24-Jan	4:30	Carroll Lindler	Susan Shealy	Sherrie McTeer	***
	7:30	Bob Ziemer	Gloria Ziemer	A.J. Peeples	Copeland Peeples
31-Jan	8:30	Lynn Shealy	Robert Lindler	Carroll Lindler	***
	10:30	Helen L. Lindler	Brandon Slice	Angela Nuottila	Audrey Doyle

## ALTAR FLOWERS JANUARY

3-Jan Michael and Susan Shealy

10-Jan Leon and Helen Lindler

17-Jan Pastor David Nuottila

24-Jan Tracy and Raine Lindler

31-Jan Ken and Brenda Smith

## GROUNDS TEAM FOR JANUARY

Co-Chairs—Eddie Eargle and Buddy Bickley

John Riser Wayne Stuck, Robert Wessinger, Chuck Shobert, Nate Nickel, Claude Michael Lindler, Ken Smith, Tracy Eargle, John Wallace, Dixon Wallace, Mitchell Martin



## ST. JACOB'S NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2021 ISSUE 1

### WE CARE CENTER

1. Grits
2. Rice
3. Dry beans
4. Chunky soup
5. Progresso soup
6. Corn muffin mix
7. Pancake mix/syrup
8. Jam/jelly
9. Personal care toiletries
10. Cleaning supplies

We also ALWAYS need any cleaning supplies, paper products and personal care items.



### BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

*Repent and believe in the gospel.*

*Mark 1:15*

**(803) 345-2309**

**ChurchOffice@st-jacobs.org**

**www.st-jacobs.org**

**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday—9 AM-2 PM**

**Worship Time: Sundays—8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

**Sunday School—9:40 AM**

**St. Jacob's Lutheran Church**

**844 Columbia Avenue**

**Chapin, SC 29036**

